

U.S.S.N.: 09/915,791

II. Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration and re-examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

Claims 1- 14 remain pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 USC §103

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-14 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,204,577, issued to Chottiner et al. (Chottiner) in view of United States Patent No. 6,345,430, issued to Haga et al. (Haga).

The Applicants respectfully submit the attached Declaration of the Inventors Under 37 C.F.R. §1.131, which evidences the conception and reduction to practice of the subject matter of claims 1-14 prior to January 5, 2000 (the filing date of the Chottiner et al. reference). The Applicants respectfully submit that the Chottiner et al. reference is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102, and therefore cannot form the basis for a §103(a) rejection. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections under §103.

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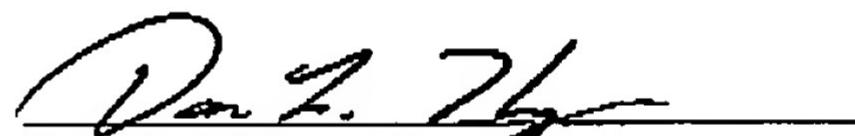
Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as presently amended are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant authorizes charging of any fee deficiency to the deposit account of Applicant's assignee, Visteon Global Technologies, Inc., as indicated in the Transmittal accompanying this Statement.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dated: 3-31-2004


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